IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An air induction assembly for a vehicle engine comprising:

an air cleaner having an air cleaner inlet in fluid communication with an air supply and an air cleaner outlet;

an intake manifold mounted to said air cleaner and having a manifold inlet in fluid communication with said air cleaner outlet; and

a valve cover mounted to said air cleaner such that said valve cover, said intake manifold, and said air cleaner together form an induction module wherein said induction module is mounted to a vehicle engine as a single unit.

2. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein a portion of said air cleaner is positioned directly between said valve cover and said intake manifold.

3. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said air cleaner, said intake manifold, and said valve cover are integrally molded together as a single piece.

4. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 including at least one attachment interface between said air cleaner and said intake manifold and including at least one attachment interface between said air cleaner and said valve cover.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 including a throttle body mounted to said intake manifold and having a throttle body inlet in fluid communication with said air cleaner outlet.

6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 5 including a tube sealed at one end to said air cleaner at said air cleaner outlet and ~~said~~ at an opposite end to said throttle body inlet.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 6 wherein said intake manifold has an upper surface facing away from said engine and wherein said throttle body inlet is incorporated into said upper surface.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 6 wherein said throttle body inlet is incorporated into a side surface of said intake manifold.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 including a panel air filter slidably received within a cavity formed within said air cleaner.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 9 wherein said air cleaner inlet is positioned on one side of said panel air filter and said air cleaner outlet is positioned on an opposite side of said panel air filter.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10 including an air cleaner cover mounted to said air cleaner and selectively moveable between an open and closed position to provide access to said panel air filter.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 including a radial seal air filter mounted within a cavity formed within said air cleaner, said radial seal air filter comprising a tube and filtering material circumferentially surrounding said tube and extending along the length of said tube wherein said tube includes an enclosed first end and an open second end in fluid communication with said air cleaner outlet.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12 including a gap formed between said enclosed first end and said air cleaner inlet such that air flows into said gap, flows around said radial seal air filter, flows through said filtering material into said tube, and flows out through said air cleaner outlet.

14. (Original) The assembly of claim 13 including an air cleaner cover mounted to said air cleaner and selectively moveable between an open and closed position to provide access to said radial seal air filter.

15. (Original) A method of mounting an air induction assembly to a vehicle engine comprising the steps of:

(a) assembling an intake manifold, air cleaner, and valve cover together to form an induction module; and

(b) mounting the induction module to a vehicle engine.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein step (a) further includes the step of positioning the air cleaner directly between the valve cover and said intake manifold.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein step (a) further includes the step of attaching a throttle body to the intake manifold prior to step (b).

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 including the step of installing an air filter in a cavity formed within the air cleaner.

19. (New) The method of claim 15 including the step of integrally forming the air cleaner, the intake manifold, and the valve cover as a single piece.

20. (New) The method of claim 15 including forming a first attachment interface between the air cleaner and the intake manifold; forming a second attachment interface, separate from the first attachment interface, between the air cleaner and the valve cover; welding the air cleaner to the intake manifold at the first attachment interface; and welding the air cleaner to the valve cover at the second attachment interface.

21. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the air cleaner comprises a housing defining an air filter cavity and wherein step (a) includes attaching a lower surface of the housing to the valve cover, attaching an upper surface of the housing to the intake manifold such that the air cleaner is sandwiched between the intake manifold and the valve cover, forming an air cleaner

inlet within one wall of the housing, forming an air cleaner outlet within another wall of the housing, installing a filter between the air cleaner inlet and the air cleaner outlet, forming an intake manifold inlet within a wall of the intake manifold, and connecting the air cleaner outlet to the intake manifold inlet with a tube.

22. (New) The method of claim 15 including forming the air cleaner with a bottom surface, a first longitudinal side wall, a second longitudinal side wall that is parallel to and spaced apart from the first longitudinal side wall, a first lateral side wall interconnecting the first and the second longitudinal side walls, and a second lateral side wall that is parallel to and spaced apart from the first lateral side wall such that the first and second longitudinal side walls and the first and second lateral side walls cooperate with the bottom surface to form a box for substantially enclosing a filter; mounting the valve cover directly to the bottom surface of the air cleaner; and mounting the intake manifold directly along one of the first and second longitudinal side walls.

23. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said air cleaner comprises a housing defining an inner cavity for receiving a filter, and wherein said housing includes a lower portion directly attached to said valve cover and an upper portion directly attached to said intake manifold such that said housing is sandwiched between said valve cover and said intake manifold.

24. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said air cleaner includes a bottom surface, a first longitudinal side wall, a second longitudinal side wall that is parallel to and spaced apart from said first longitudinal side wall, a first lateral side wall interconnecting said first and said second

longitudinal side walls, and a second lateral side wall that is parallel to and spaced apart from said first lateral side wall and wherein said first and second longitudinal side walls and said first and second lateral side walls cooperate with said bottom surface to form a box that substantially encloses a filter and wherein said valve cover is directly attached to said bottom surface of said air cleaner and said intake manifold is directly attached along one of said first and second longitudinal side walls.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 24 including an air cleaner lid forming a top surface of said air cleaner to completely enclose the filter within said box wherein said air cleaner lid is pivotable between open and closed positions.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 28 wherein said air cleaner inlet is formed at a first opening within one of said first and second lateral side walls and wherein said air cleaner outlet is formed at a second opening within the other of said first and second lateral side walls with the filter extending between the first and second openings and wherein said manifold inlet is formed at a third opening within a side wall of the intake manifold and including a tube that extends outwardly from the second opening toward the third opening to fluidly connect said air cleaner outlet to said manifold inlet.